

September 14, 2015

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2015**

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting of the Sartell City Council was held on September 14, 2015 in the Council Chambers of Sartell City Hall. Mayor Sarah Jane Nicoll called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT: Mayor Nicoll, Council members: Braig-Lindstrom, Hennes, Lynch, Peterson

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Mary Degiovanni, City Administrator
Anita Rasmussen, Community Development Director
Mike Nielson, Engineer
Judy Molitor, Recording Secretary
Jim Hughes, Police Chief
Brad Borders, Public Works Director

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AGENDA REVIEW AND ADOPTION

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER PETERSON TO AMEND THE AGENDA, ADDING ITEM 8C, DISCUSS EMAIL FROM JOE LAHR REGARDING VILLCHECK PROPERTY FOR LOCATION OF THE COMMUNITY CENTER.

Mayor Nicoll said she was not in favor of amending the agenda since everyone already got the email from Joe Lahr and the community center site has already been voted on.

THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MEMBER BRAIG-LINDSTROM APPROVING THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.

UPON VOTE BEING TAKEN THE FOLLOWING VOTED:

AYE: COUNCIL MEMBERS BRAIG-LINDSTROM, HENNES & PETERSON

NAY: MAYOR NICOLL AND COUNCIL MEMBER LYNCH

MOTION CARRIED

OPEN FORUM/PUBLIC COMMENT

John Ellis, 824 Coborn Court, Sartell, talked about the importance of location when it comes to picking a site for any business, including the Community Center. He suggested the Council re-evaluate where the community center should be located and take more time to "sell" residents on the location.

Joe Perske, 509 10th Street North, spoke against the southern location for the community center and believes it should be closer to the schools and more centrally located in the community. He also spoke in favor of a library within the community center rather than a separate building. GRRL is not in favor of the site for library services.

September 14, 2015

Brandon Testa, 1513 20th Avenue South, talked about his two businesses located in the vicinity of the proposed community center and said that he believes it is important to have a community center for the residents and important to keep moving forward with the process. He said he has not heard any negative comments about this location and thanked the Council for all they do to keep moving forward.

Henry Smorynski, 802 3rd Street North, talked about planning for a library over the past 10 years and location of the Community Center is critical. Henry believes the Council needs to have public meetings regarding a more central location for the center and discuss branch library options. Mr. Smorynski talked about poor planning of the Community Center location and said it is time to honor residents input and work with the GRRL Board for a separate location for a library, possibly in unused retail space.

Jason Mathiasen, representing Pinecone Central Park Association talked about the amenities of Pinecone Central Park and briefly explained some of the newly added features. Mathiasen thanked the past board members and said he is excited to be a part of the newly transitioned board association and will be updating the Council on this awesome complex. He also talked about the addition of the Villcheck property which will add either additional fields or parking. He said he received many positive comments over the summer from residents and visitors of sporting events.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

a. Oath of Office – Police Officer Curtis Grosz

Chief Hughes administered the Oath of Office to the newly hired Officer Curtis Grosz.

b. Sartell Police Department Awards Presentation

Police Officers Kari Bonfield and Rob Lyon were given life-saving awards for their assistance in saving the life of a resident. Chief Hughes explained the circumstances surrounding the 911 call.

Police Sergeant Mader and Officers Lester and Mathews were given awards for their assistance with delivering a baby. Chief Hughes gave a brief synopsis of the events that led to the assistance by the officers.

c. Laura Hood – Whitney Senior Center

Laura Hood, representing Whitney Senior Center presented a brief overview of the events held at the Whitney Center and the estimated number of participants they have. She also talked about their partnership with Catholic Charities and serving noon meals. As the commercial kitchen has been heavily used for 35+ years and the equipment will need to be replaced, she suggested the City consider a donation to help with this replacement. Ms. Hood explained the fees paid by St. Cloud residents versus Sartell residents and responded to Council member Peterson's questions about operating costs.

APPROVAL OF CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

a. August 24, 2015 - Special Meeting

September 14, 2015

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAIG-LINDSTROM AND SECONDED BY MEMBER HENNES APPROVING THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Building Permit Activity Report – Acceptance
- b. Inspections Activity Report – Acceptance
- c. Technology Report – Acceptance
- d. Fire Department Report - Acceptance
- e. Approval of voucher payments
- f. Acceptance of Donations
- g. Calling Public Hearing on Delinquent Accounts
- h. Setting Truth in Taxation hearing for 6:00 pm on Monday, December 14, 2015
- i. Adoption of Resolution Approving an application to conduct off-site gambling
- j. Calling Public Hearing on Fee Schedule Ordinance to add dangerous animal
- k. Approval of Stearns County Agreement
- l. Approval of Qwest Lease
- m. Calling Public Hearing on Vacation and Conditional Use Permit
- n. Approval of Firefighter Appointment

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER HENNES AND SECONDED BY MEMBER PETERSON APPROVING CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS A - N. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- a. **Update on Community Development Block Grant Funding and Projects**

Ed Zimny of the Central Minnesota Housing Partnership presented a brief overview and updated the Council on the success of the Community Development Block Grant Funding project.

Mayor Nicoll opened the public hearing at 6:49 p.m., there were no comments heard or written comments received, the hearing was closed.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER HENNES AND SECONDED BY MEMBER LYNCH ADOPTING THE SCDP PROGRAM INCOME PLAN. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

September 14, 2015

OLD BUSINESS

a. Preliminary Budget and Levy for 2016

City Administrator/Finance Director Degiovanni presented the preliminary budget and levy for 2016.

Hennes asked questions regarding Police and Public Works staffing needs.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER PETERSON AND SECONDED BY MEMBER HENNES APPROVING RESOLUTION 78-2015, THE PRELIMINARY BUDGET AND LEVY FOR 2016.

UPON VOTE BEING TAKEN, THE FOLLOWING VOTED:

AYE: MAYOR NICOLL, COUNCIL MEMBERS HENNES AND LYNCH

NAY: COUNCIL MEMBERS BRAIG-LINDSTROM AND PETERSON

MOTION CARRIED

b. Community Center Planning

City Administrator/Finance Director Degiovanni discussed the community center and priority sales tax projects.

Council member Peterson talked about his concern for library space in Sartell, along with the operational costs and employee needs of the Community Center. Peterson also favors the 2nd sheet of ice and parking lot upgrades to Pinecone Regional Park and would like to see additional sales tax money be allocated for those improvements. Petersen would also like to see the interest costs included with future transportation projects. Degiovanni provided an update on the GRRL services.

Council member Hennes supports the plan and timeline as presented for a Community Center, however not necessarily in favor of allocating money for a 2nd sheet of ice unless the other community facility needs are met first.

Council member Braig-Lindstrom talked about her concerns of Pinecone Road phase 2 and 3 being pushed out for a few years, prolonging the rebuilding of a public safety facility and the timing of the east side street repairs and where these projects fit into the use of sales tax funding. Degiovanni gave the timelines for the projects referenced by Braig-Lindstrom. Member Braig-Lindstrom stated she feels she is being bullied. Council member Peterson suggested possibly a personnel committee meeting to address Braig-Lindstrom's concerns.

Council member Lynch is okay with the plan as presented. However, he is in favor of reversing the timing of repairs to 27th Street North and 23rd Street connection. Lynch believes the City should work with the Library Board to be a part of the Community Center, however, does not believe a 12,500+ square foot stand-alone library is feasible.

September 14, 2015

Mayor Nicoll agrees with the financial plan and sales tax priorities and money being allocated for the Watab Creek shelter replacement. Nicoll talked about setting aside money for the parking lots at Pinecone Regional Park ice arena parking and Pinecone Central Park parking, however, does not envision the City building a 12,500 sq. ft. building for a separate library.

City Administrator Degiovanni clarified the consensus of the Council favored the plan as presented and staff will move forward.

c. Joe Lahr email (amended agenda by member Peterson to include this item)

Council member Peterson read the email from Joe Lahr regarding his opinion on the Villcheck property and the cost associated with the amount of fill needed to make the site buildable for a Community Center. Peterson suggested hiring an independent counsel to review the selection process of the Community Center and be sure there wasn't any issues or errors in the site selection process.

Council member Lynch believes an outside counsel to review the process and sites is not necessary.

Council member Hennes stated that he did not support the Villcheck property for the Community Center site due to location, the expense of constructing a road through the property and the fact that the Villcheck property was purchased by the City because of its proximity to Pinecone Central Park for the additions of parking or ballfields.

City administrator Degiovanni explained that the consultant team selected to review sites for the Community Center were independent outside counsel who were asked to review appropriate sites for the center.

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER PETERSON AND SECONDED BY MEMBER BRAIG-LINDSTROM TO HIRE INDEPENDENT COUNSEL TO REVIEW THE SELECTION PROCESS OF THE COMMUNITY CENTER TO BE SURE THERE WASN'T ANYTHING INAPPROPRIATE. UPON VOTE BEING TAKEN THE FOLLOWING VOTED:
AYE: COUNCIL MEMBERS BRAIG-LINDSTROM AND MEMBER PETERSON
NAY: MAYOR NICOLL, COUNCIL MEMBERS HENNES AND LYNCH
MOTION FAILED**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Hughes presented his monthly memorandum. He updated the council on the success of the Cook Out With Cops and thanked especially the donation received from Country Manor and Pan-o-Gold.

September 14, 2015

PUBLIC WORKS

Director Borders presented his monthly report.

CITY ENGINEER

Engineer Nielson presented his monthly memorandum and gave a brief update on navigating the roundabout at Pinecone Road and 2nd Street.

PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Director Rasmussen presented her monthly memorandum.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Administrator Degiovanni presented her report.

CITY COUNCIL UPDATES & MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Council members gave updates on various meetings and community events.

ADJOURN

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER HENNES AND SECONDED BY MEMBER BRAIG-LINDSTROM TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:30 P.M. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Minutes By

Judy Molitor
Recording Secretary

Sarah Jane Nicoll
Mayor